Manpower Export Promotion Council

116. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of setting up of Manpower Export Promotion Council to regulate hiring practices for overseas jobs;

(b) in what manner his Ministry is co-coordinating with the Ministry of Labour, which is working out to set up a welfare fund for the Indian Diaspora in various countries, to make the benefits reach the real needy people abroad;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is thinking of setting up of Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra to lookafter the welfare activities of the Indian Diaspora living aborad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The Emigration (Amendment) Bill, 2002 to facilitate setting up of a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council had been introduced in the Lok Sabha in November, 2002. This was referred by the Lok Sabha to the Standing Committee on Labour & Welfare, which submitted its report in June, 2003. This Bill has lapsed with the dissolution of the Lok Sabha. Ministry of Labour is proposing re-introduction of the emigration (Amendment) Bill, 2004, after considering the Standing Committee's recommendation and consulting the various Ministries and State Governments.

(b) In the proposed Emigration (Amendment) Bill, 2004 there is a provision for establishment of a Fund for the welfare of the workers who go abroad for work.

(c) and (d) At the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, 2004 the then Prime Minister announced establishment of a Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK) as an autonomous institution to promote multi-dimensional activities for the welfare of the Indian Diaspora and also announced an initial grant of Rs. 25 crores. A plot of land has already been allocated in Chanakyapuri, New Delhi for locating the PBK.